

FLORA OF LOWER CAPE COD; SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.

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IN my paper on the flora of lower Cape Cod¹ I made only brief mention of the native trees; I had given little attention to them, only noticing their presence as I passed by, with my mind more on herbaceous plants and cryptogams. In a short visit to Eastham in September last, I looked more closely, and now think that the expression I used does not do justice to the oaks. "Scrub oaks" certainly describes their habit, as they form dense thickets, usually with pines interspersed, over considerable areas, but when I examined these thickets more closely, to see if they were composed of *Quercus ilicifolia*, our common scrub oak near Boston, or *Q. prinoides*, of somewhat more southern range, I was confronted with a bewildering variety in the form and size of the leaves, and a great scarcity of acorns. Especially in districts that had been burned over the new growth showed leaves of enormous size and undecided contour. It was only by tracing the connection from these scrubs to the older trees, that any definite forms could be determined, and then it was a surprise to find that my "scrub oak" included no less than four species; *Q. alba*, *Q. velutina*, *Q. ilicifolia* and *Q. prinoides* var. *rufescens*. I was on the watch for *Q. stellata*, but did not find it; I think, however, it may yet be found, as it occurs in Brewster, only eight miles up the Cape.

In the Rev. Mr. Pratt's history of Eastham, from which I quoted, he speaks of a native forest of considerable extent formerly existing in the northern part of the town, but improvidently destroyed; I think a small part of this still exists, as the old "Camp Meeting Grove." It is many years since camp-meetings were held here, and the only indication of its former use is found in the decaying benches in the central open space, which is steadily growing smaller as the seedlings advance from the circumference. The sacred groves were revered by the ancients, and part of this reverence may have lasted even till now, and saved these trees. All four species of oaks grow here, and the trees of *Q. alba* and *Q. velutina* appear to be of a good old age. In absolute measurement they are not large or tall, I think none are over thirty

¹ RHODORA, Vol. XI, p. 125.

feet high, but in this region everything is on a small scale, and they are relatively noble trees; a very dense growth of lichens covers the trunks, and a few of the larger trees seem to be dying of old age, but most are still vigorous. Here and there among them are a few individuals of *Juniperus virginiana* of normal development, and about the central open area are some rather dwarf individuals of *Populus alba*. There is quite a depth of vegetable mould under the trees, which seems to be favorable to herbaceous plants; *Solidago puberula* grows here, of normal size; it is the only station I have observed in the town. The largest tree in Eastham, curiously, is not among these native trees. A large and well shaped *Ailanthus glandulosa* quite overshadows the house of Captain Higgins. The captain is the owner of a golden-headed cane, presented to him by the Boston Post as the oldest inhabitant of the town, but when I asked him when the tree was set out, he could not tell me. His predecessor in the house, "The old captain" he called him, had brought it from foreign parts and set it out there, so he understood.

This year I visited an interesting locality in the town, the so-called "Sunken Meadow." This is near the bay shore, separated from it by a fairly high, continuous sand dune. The name represents its appearance, but is misleading, as the place is evidently a tract of salt marsh, which has been cut off from the sea by the formation of the dunes, and in which the salt marsh plants are being supplanted by those of the uplands. The characteristic fertility of land reclaimed from the sea appears here; the hay crop is the best in town, and the wild plants have a better nurtured look than elsewhere in Eastham. *Solidago neglecta*, for instance, was common, the plants large and luxuriant; I had not met it before in the town. In the middle of the "Sunken Meadow" is a pond, on which ice has been cut for many years; so that the time when it was connected with the sea must be remote. Its appearance is quite that of an ordinary salt marsh pool, and the dense coating of algae covering its surface seems to be what is usually found in stations of the same appearance; *Cladophora expansa* Kütz., *Lynghya aestuarii* (Mert.) Liebm., *Enteromorpha* species, etc.; but when examined more closely, there are found among these marine forms such fresh water plants as *Spirogyra*, *Microspora* and the like. The area now occupied by the salt water plants, including land and water forms, is relatively small, and is probably decreasing,

but the plants do not appear to be dwarfed. The halophytic Old Guard, though surrounded by advancing enemies, is not yet ready to surrender.

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NOTE ON BOEHMERIA CYLINDRICA, VAR. DRUMMONDIANA.

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IN 1854, in his *Revue de la Famille des Urticées*, Weddell described from Texas a *Boehmeria* as follows: "B. DRUMMONDIANA †: foliis ovatis, acutis, subacuminatis, basi subcordatis, serratis, rigidulis, supra hispidulis demum glabratis asperrimis, subtus molliter pubescenti-tomentosis; spicis brevibus, erectis.—Texas (Drummond, pl. exs., no. 267)."¹

Subsequently, however, Weddell concluded that the plant was only a variety of *Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Sw.,² treating it in DeCandolle's *Prodromus* as *B. cylindrica*, β , *Drummondiana*.³

In 1889, Porter, describing a plant which is found in bogs of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania characterized it as follows: "*Boehmeria cylindrica*, Willd., var. SCABRA, n. var.—Erect, strict, 2 feet high; leaves thick and rigid, very rough on the upper surface, tomentose beneath, on short petioles or almost sessile [,] usually reflexed and pressed against the stem; spikes densely flowered, much longer than the petioles."⁴

Under the name, var. *scabra* Porter, the plant with the leaves harsh above and more or less tomentulose beneath has been generally taken up, and Small has advanced it to specific rank as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small,⁵ with a range extending from "New York to Michigan, Kansas, Florida and Texas." But no one in recent years seems to

¹ Weddell, *Ann. des Sci. Nat.* 4^{me} Sér., i. 201 (1854).

² *B. cylindrica* is very commonly cited as dating from Willd. *Sp.* iv. 340 (1805); but it was clearly published in Swartz, *Prodr. Veg. Ind. Occ.* 34 (1788).

³ Weddell in *D. C. Prodr.* xvi. pt. 1, 202 (1869).

⁴ Porter, *Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl.* xvi. 21 (1889).

⁵ Small, *Fl. S. E. U. S.* 358 (1903).